ABSTRACT

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR BONDING ORTHODONTIC APPLIANCES TO TEETH

A method and apparatus for bonding orthodontic appliances such as brackets, buccal tubes and the like to a patient's teeth includes the use of an array of solid state light emitters adapted for placement and activation in the oral cavity. When activated, the light emitters are operable to direct light toward a number of appliances simultaneously, so that photocurable bonding material located between the appliances and the teeth begins to harden. Optionally, the apparatus comprises an indirect bonding placement device that functions to precisely place the appliances on certain preselected locations of the teeth as desired by the practitioner.